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MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

HISTORIC RESOURCE EVALUATION CRITERIA

It is not necessary or possible to preserve more than a small percentage of the total number of historic sites that exist in Montana, although as many as possible should be recorded in appropriate ways.

We must choose judiciously the sites to be preserved. While there are no convenient formulas for making these choices, some broad guidelines have gained acceptance among leaders of the historic preservation movement. An analysis of each historic site using the following evaluation criteria will help to guide the ongoing state preservation program to produce the maximum benefits with the limited time and funds available.

The guidelines are a combination of four separate evaluation factors, each having several criteria which are individually rated on a 0 - 8 scale. The evaluation factors are: A. Theme Representation, B. Historical Significance, C. Suitability for Preservation, and D. Feasibility of Preservation. Listed below is the explanation and terminology of each evaluation factor and the criteria within. Bear in mind that the ratings based on the factors used in this system will be only guidelines; the result of a professional judgment of the evaluator and his interpretation of the criteria. A separate, simplified sheet will be used for recording the ratings and totals assigned to each historic site.

This evaluation process has taken into consideration guidelines, standards and suggested criteria of the National Park Service, the National Register, the Historic American Buildings Survey, the National

Montana State Library



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Trust for Historic Preservation, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Illinois and Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Plans.

A. THEME REPRESENTATION

The major concern here is that all of the major themes in the state's history are adequately represented by preserving a selection of sites that best represent each of them. Therefore, the rating below emphasizes those themes that currently are under-represented on the National Register in Montana.

Rating:

The scale below and the rating for each theme - subtheme will change over time as the number of registered sites within the theme changes.

- (8) 0 - 1 sites of this theme are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- (6) 2 - 3 sites of this theme are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- (4) 4 - 6 sites of this theme are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- (2) 7 - 9 sites of this theme are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- (0) 10+ sites of this theme are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Themes:

	<u>Sites</u>	<u>Rating</u>
1. Aboriginal Americans		
a. Prehistoric	3	6
b. Historic	1	8
2. The Arts		
a. Architecture	5	4
b. Art (painting, sculpture)	1	8

	<u>Sites</u>	<u>Rating</u>
c. Music/literature/theater	0	8
d. Landscape architecture/urban planning	0	8
3. Conservation	0	8
4. Education	2	6
5. Exploration and Settlement		
a. Exploration	9	2
b. Settlement	2	6
6. Military Affairs		
a. Army - Indian wars	6	4
b. Other	0	8
7. Political Affairs - Government/Other	6	4
8. Recreation	0	8
9. Science - Invention/Other	1	8
10. Society		
a. Religion/philosophy	2	6
b. Social/humanitarian	2	6
11. Technology		
a. Agriculture/animal husbandry (farming/ranching)	2	6
b. Commerce/communication/transportation	4	4
c. Engineering/industry	1	8
d. The fur trade era	2	6
e. The mining frontier	4	4

B. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This refers to buildings, sites, objects, or districts which possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting our heritage.

Rating:

- (8) National significance --significance implies innovation, influence or unique attributes; i.e., the first, the last, the biggest, the best example, or the only one of its kind. National significance implies that the resource is significant when viewed from the national level.
- (6) Regional significance -- important not only to the State of Montana, but also acknowledged and recognized as affecting other states in the region.
- (4) State significance -- significance of acknowledged and recognized importance to the State of Montana.
- (2) Local significance -- a place or thing of recognized local or regional significance but with little or no importance at a statewide level.
- (0) Little significance in terms of historic values associated with the resource.

Criteria:

To determine the relative significance of identified resources, each will be evaluated in terms of the six criteria listed below. Factors to be considered in evaluation and a suggested system for rating are presented for each criterion.

The determination of a site's significance in terms of these criteria should be a professional judgment.

The relative importance of each criterion in establishing preservation priorities will be determined by the survey staff and the Historic Sites and Antiquities Advisory Council for the

Preservation of Historic Sites. The option of emphasizing certain criteria over other criteria should be retained at a policy making level since public interest, government programs, and financial priorities will shift from time to time. Criteria are as follows:

1. Historic Values - Degree to which each resource represents or reflects the culture, values, and character of its time.

Factors to be evaluated:

- a. Socio-economic associations--communal societies; ethnic groups; humanitarian, religious, philosophical movements; any other resources associated with social or economic movements.
 - b. Street scene--pavement, lighting, landscaping, building facades (for historic districts), interiors, outbuildings.
2. Historic Persons - Degree to which a resource is associated with persons who helped to shape events.

Factors to be evaluated:

- a. Famous person--name, accomplishments.
 - b. Relationship of resource to person--ownership; period in the person's life with which resource is associated (greatest importance would be attached to a building associated with a famous person's productive career; if none exists, then the site of that structure and buildings associated with other stages of the person's life take on added significance).
3. Historic Events - Degree to which a resource is associated with natural phenomenon or human activity which helped to shape events.

Factors to be evaluated:

- a. Famous event--name, date, particulars.
 - b. Relationship of resource to event--description, any other resources associated with event.
4. Artistic Quality - Degree to which a resource exemplifies an innovation or a recognized style in architecture, landscaping, engineering, or urban design and planning.

Factors to be evaluated:

- a. Style--period, interior and exterior, description, quality.
 - b. Artist-- name, date, association with particular school of thought, other examples of artist's work.
 - c. Innovation--structural, use of materials, ornamentation, any other resources associated with an innovative technique.
 - d. Artistic integrity of architectural or landscape design within an historic district.
 - e. Abundance, quality, distribution of similar work.
5. Aboriginal Importance - Degree to which a resource is representative of North American civilizations preceding the infusion of European cultures.

Factors to be evaluated:

- a. Cultures and periods represented--names, dates, description.
 - b. Extent of surviving materials and any unique characteristics.
 - c. Other sites with similar characteristics.
6. Symbolic Importance - Degree to which a resource, because of its unique location or outstanding visual characteristics, instills

pride or serves as a basis for orientation or identification within a community.

Factors to be evaluated:

- a. Prime reason for construction--religious, commemorative, artistic, governmental.
- b. Stature--biggest, tallest, most unique.
- c. Local identity--number of people and geographic area identified with resource.

C. SUITABILITY FOR PRESERVATION

This is an analysis of how suitable a historic site and its authentic historically related environment are for effective preservation and interpretation. There should be enough land to preserve all the significant historic or prehistoric features plus sites for any necessary developments for management and public use. Cost estimates and public interest are not factors in this analysis.

Rating:

- (8) Excellent -- no adverse influences, preservation and interpretation would be effective and enhance the resource.
- (6) Good -- slight adverse influences, preservation or interpretation may not be totally effective without some site improvement.
- (4) Fair -- moderate but not unmanageable adverse influences, preservation and interpretation will require some site improvement.
- (2) Poor -- severe adverse influences that may make preservation or interpretation ineffective without major site improvements.
- (0) Very Poor -- very severe adverse influences, preservation or interpretation impossible or ineffective.

Criteria:

Each resource surveyed will be evaluated in terms of the three criteria listed below. Factors to be considered in the evaluation of

each resource are given. The option of emphasizing certain criteria should be retained at a policy-making level. The evaluation of a resource's suitability in terms of each criterion, however, can be based upon a technical or professional judgment.

1. Site Integrity - Degree to which a resource is intact and unaltered from its original condition and likely to remain unaltered.

Factors to be evaluated:

- a. Alteration--a site or structure should retain a high proportion of its original design, workmanship and materials.
- b. Location--a site or structure should contain sufficient land to preserve all the significant historic features associated with it.

2. Environmental Influences - Degree to which the area immediately adjacent to the resource is in keeping with the character of the resource and its associated values and will be likely to resist environmental deterioration.

Factors to be evaluated:

- a. Historic scene--a site or structure should be located in a setting which enhances its historic qualities and provides for effective preservation and interpretation.
- b. Blighting influences--excessive traffic, inadequate building setbacks, structural deterioration, poor maintenance, visual blight (overhead wires, billboards, smoke, a mixture of land uses, air pollution, noise, vibration, inadequate parking.

- c. Economic influences--zoning (nonconforming use on site, "higher and better" land use permitted), new construction around site, likelihood of urban renewal, pending subdivision or highway construction.
3. Condition and Maintenance - Degree to which a resource is maintained and likely to resist future corrosive effects of the elements.

Factors to be evaluated:

- a. Condition and maintenance--property should have good structural condition or extensive physical remains, it should be in no apparent physical danger.
- b. Physical protection--property should have adequate protection against vandalism, fire or other threats of damage with walls, fences, guards, occupants, or other means.

D. FEASIBILITY OF PRESERVATION

The test of feasibility involves an analysis of the benefits versus the costs of an active preservation effort, the public's sympathy toward preservation in each case, and whether there is an immediate need for action.

Rating:

(4) If rated YES below.

(0) If rated NO below.

Criteria:

Following completion of the detailed survey, resources will be evaluated in terms of the criteria listed below to determine preservation feasibility.

Factors to be evaluated:

1. Accessibility--property accessible to the public via established right-of-ways and has space for services required by visitors. (yes, no)
2. Re-use potential--good possibilities of re-use such as non-destructive commercial use, public use or industrial use. (yes, no)
3. Available craftsmanship--craftsmen that are necessary to restore or interpret the property are easily available such as: wood, iron or tile workers, qualified archeologists, interpretive specialists, etc. (yes, no)
4. Economic success--property must have sufficient historical significance, educational value, and public interest to justify the costs of acquisition, restoration, development, operation and maintenance. (yes, no)
5. Demolition pending--site destruction imminent by natural or man-caused means. (yes, no)
6. Sale imminent--property offered for sale or recently sold and leaves future protection in doubt. (yes, no)
7. Public interest--the owner and/or local citizens are sympathetic towards preservation and preservation efforts are supported beyond the local level. (yes, no)

RATING TOTALS

	<u>Lowest</u>	<u>Highest</u>
A. THEME REPRESENTATION	0	8
B. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	0	48
C. SUITABILITY FOR PRESERVATION	0	24
D. FEASIBILITY OF PRESERVATION	0	28
GRAND TOTALS	<u>0</u>	<u>108</u>

SITE CLASSES

	<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>Historical Significance</u>
CLASS I	at least 70	and at least 30
CLASS II	60	20
CLASS III	50	10
CLASS IV	below 50	or below 10

Class I - Sites significant and suitable for preserving and interpreting the history of the Nation. These should be listed on the National and State Registers and have first priority for protection and development.

Class II - Sites significant and suitable for preserving and interpreting the history of the region. These should be listed on the National and State Registers and have second priority for protection and development.

Class III - Sites significant primarily in the presentation and interpretation of state and local history. These should be listed on the State Register and depending on public interest and the probability of destruction, the National Register.

Class IV - Sites significant primarily in the presentation and interpretation of local or loose associations of history. These may be listed on the State Register if public interest and/or the probability of destruction warrants.

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HISTORIC RESOURCE EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Site Name _____	Site Class	Grand Total
Location _____		
Evaluated by _____		

FACTORS

RATING

TOTALS

8 6 4 2 0

A. THEME REPRESENTATION

Major Theme _____	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>						<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> </tr> </table>	

B. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

1. Historic values
2. Historic persons
3. Historic events
4. Artistic quality
5. Aboriginal importance
6. Symbolic importance

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C. SUITABILITY FOR PRESERVATION

1. Site integrity
2. Environmental influences
3. Condition and maintenance

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D. FEASIBILITY OF PRESERVATION

1. Accessibility
 2. Re-use potential
 3. Available craftsmanship
 4. Economic success
- Need for action:
5. Demolition pending
 6. Sale imminent
 7. Public interest

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